

## A Proper Response (1 Peter 2.13-17)

This Tuesday, we swear in a new President. There is much apprehension and much enthusiasm. With this, there is an attitude that seems to be against the Church and Christ. The question then becomes how shall we handle this? Do we engage in civil disobedience? Do we engage in a crusade? Do we roll over and let God's enemies walk on us?

What is a proper response to all of this? In order to form a proper response, we need to be right ourselves. In order for us to be right, we need to remember 3 characteristics from our passage this morning:

1. Who we are: a Chosen People
  - a. God chose us before time began, (Eph 1.4)
  - b. A Free People: We are given a freedom that we can use, not abuse, or cover up with evil. (Example: Entitled attitude because of being preacher.)
  - c. A Servant People: Jesus set the example of how we are to be serving in washing feet, in living life.
2. What we do: Submit
  - a. Submit means to yield one's own self.
  - b. In Bible it is demonstrated when someone places the need of another above his own.
  - c. Example: Paul could have used freedom to exact retribution for beating in Philippi, Acts 16, instead he used opportunity to advance the Gospel.
3. Why we act:
  - a. 1 Cor. 10.31: Whatever we do, we do for the Glory of God.
  - b. Because we have been called out of darkness, so we can proclaim God's praises.
  - c. Because we eliminate opportunity for critics to speak.
  - d. Because we are in the same boat.

Challenge:

When forming the right response, it is not a matter of embarrassing our leaders in a public forum, or even our enemies, such as my blasting say President Bush from the pulpit, or those who feel stealing from their neighbors is a fine way to live. No the challenge here in forming the proper response, based on the Word, is how can we proclaim the Light of God's mercy? How can we take the opportunity to spread and share God's love. Mat 5.16 as much trepidation that I have, I am excited about the opportunities before us.